However, during the India Leadership Forum summit 2007 on NASSCOM in Mumbai on 7th to 9th February 2007, Hon'ble Prime Minister has emphasized to set a more ambitious target of US$ 80 billion by 2010.

Telephone connectivity in villages

1812. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in his Budget Speech 2005-06 the Minister of Finance had promised to give telephone connectivity to the remaining 66,822 villages in the country; and

(b) if so, the number of villages that have been provided with telephones after two years of Bharat Nirman against a target of 66,822 villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Universal Service Obligations Fund (USOF) has entered into a agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Villages Public Telephone (VPTs) in the remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/ naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these, 39,741 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st January, 2007. The remaining 27,081 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.

Waiting list of phone applicants

1813. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country where telephone facility has been provided during the last three years till date, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the number of villages in Himachal Pardesh, which are not having telephone facility;

(c) the details of the waiting list of the applicants for the various services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited such as Mobile WLL, Landline etc. in Himachal Pradesh;

(d) whether Government have formulated any time-bound programme to provide district-wise telephone connections to its waitlisted subscribers; and

(e) if so, by when these waitlisted subscribers would be provided telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of number of villages in the country where telephone facility has been provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the last three years till date, State-wise and district-wise are given in Statement—I and Statement—II respectively. (*See* below)

(b) As on 31.01.2007, 234 villages included in the Universal Service Obligation (USO) agreement between BSNL, and the Government are yet to be provided Village Public Telephone facility.

(c) In the State of Himachal Pradesh, there is no waiting list in respect of Mobile and WLL connections of BSNL. However, a waiting list of 29,050 is registered for Landline connections of BSNL as on 31.01.2007 in the state.

(d) BSNL has taken following initiatives on country-wide basis to expedite the provisioning of telephone connections to its waitlisted subscribers:

i. Extensive Deployment of wireless access technologies in the network.

ii. Relaxation of the norms of laying of Under Ground (UG) cable from 2.5 Kms. to 5 Kms. of nearest telephone exchange for provisioning of new telephone connections where such demand exists.

iii. Deployment of CDMA Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Base Transceiver Station (BTSs) on large scale to meet the demand of telephone connections beyond 5 Kms. of exchange, particularly in rural areas.

iv. Deployment of GSM mobile network to cover gaps in existing coverage besides covering villages with population 5000 and above.

(e) Around 75% of the waitlisted subscribers as on 31.3.2006 have been provided with telephone connection by BSNL until now and additional 10% are likely to be provided with telephone by March 2007. However, registration of demand for new telephone connections by BSNL is a continuous process and the connections are provided simultaneously in feasible areas.

Statement-I

State-Wise Details of VPT Facility Provided to Villages During Last Three Years

Sl. No.	Name of the Circles	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	Total
1	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	186	227	125	538
3	Assam	1958	1759	4277	7994
4	Bihar	0	0	0	0
5	Jharkhand	64	12	419	495
6	Gujarat	1130	999	899	3028
7	Haryana	0	0	0	0
8	Himachal Pradesh	132	370	266	768
9	Jammu & Kashmir	201	108	535	844
10	Karnataka	0	0	0	0
11	Kerala	0	0	0	0
12	Madhya Pradesh	2549	4928	1994	9471
13	Chhattisgarh	167	1544	608	2319
14	Maharashtra	1416	1281	2142	4839
15	North East	167	9	0	176
16	North East II	324	102	224	668
17	Orissa	0	0	70	70
18	Punjab	0	0	0	0
19	Rajasthan	1073	4840	2048	7961
20	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0
21	Uttar Pradesh (E)	6	0	0	6
22	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	0	0	0
23	Uttaranchal	111	248	822	1181
24	West Bengal	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL:	**9502**	**16427**	**14429**	**40358**

Statement-II

Village Telephone Connections by BSNL — District-Wise Details
Andhra Pradesh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	**Andhra Pradesh**	Adilabad	18	15	33	66
2		Ananthapur	13	8	12	33
3		Chittoor	31	23	8	62
4		Cuddapah	8	20	4	32
5		East Godavari	9	4	0	13
6		Guntur	0	0	11	11
7		Hyderabad	0	0	0	0
8		Karimnagar	0	3	0	3
9		Khammam	3	7	0	10
10		Krishna	1	1	0	2
11		Kurnool	1	0	0	1
12		Mahaboobnagar	3	19	3	25
13		Medak	0	12	4	16
14		Nalgonda	14	1	2	17
15		Nellore	9	19	6	34
16		Nizamabad	10	9	2	21
17		Prakasham	12	31	7	50
18		Srikakulam	7	19	8	34
19		Visakhapatnam	9	14	10	33
20		Vizianagaram	3	9	12	24
21		Warangal	34	13	2	49
22		West Godavari	1	0	1	2
		TOTAL:	**186**	**227**	**125**	**538**

Assam Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	**Assam**	Bongaigon	757	764	1182	2703
2		Dibrugarh	305	276	697	1278
3		Jorhat	37	347	1267	1651
4		Kamrup	1	2	348	351
5		Nagaon	295	119	375	789
6		Silchar	11	0	92	103
7		Tezpur	552	251	316	1119
		TOTAL:	**1958**	**1759**	**4277**	**7994**

Jharkhand Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	**Jharkhand**	Daltonganj	0	0	12	12
2		Dumka	25	0	70	95
3		Dhanbad	0	0	0	0
4		Hazaribagh	39	0	326	365
5		Jamshedpur	0	0	0	0
6		Ranchi	0	12	11	23
		TOTAL:	**64**	**12**	**419**	**495**

Gujarat Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	**Gujarat**	Ahmedabad	18	11	15	44
2		Amreli	42	16	4	62
3		Bhavnagar	39	17	44	100
4		Bharuch	17	59	99	175
5		Bhuj	98	85	31	214
6		Godhra	143	122	103	368
7		Himat Nagar	133	60	99	292
8		Jamnagar	24	17	7	48
9		Junagarh	11	10	0	21
10		Mehsana	82	41	16	139
11		Nadiad (Kheda)	249	72	11	332
12		Palanpur	155	49	31	235
13		Rajkot	23	13	13	49
14		Surat	39	47	116	202
15		Surendra Nagar	17	13	1	31
16		Vadodara	25	182	224	431
17		Valsad	15	185	85	285
		TOTAL:	**1130**	**999**	**899**	**3028**

Himachal Pradesh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	**Himachal Pradesh**	Shimla	45	188	114	347
2		Solan	10	16	15	41
3		Dharmshala	55	151	74	280
4		Hamirpur	1	7	0	8
5		Mandi	19	8	53	80
6		Kullu	2	0	10	12
		TOTAL:	**132**	**370**	**266**	**768**

Jammu and Kashmir Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
1	**Jammu & Kashmir**	Srinagar	166	79	323	568
2		Jammu	22	4	88	114
3		Udhampur	3	3	84	90
4		Rajouri	0	0	22	22
5		Leh	10	22	18	50
		TOTAL:	**201**	**108**	**535**	**844**

Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
1	**Madhya Pradesh**	Bhalaghat	0	0	0	0
2		Betul	5	5	11	21
3		Bhopal	123	53	29	205
4		Chhatarpur	152	344	204	700
5		Chhindwara	0	0	0	0
6		Damoh	183	135	54	372
7		Dewas	151	54	13	218
8		Dhar	15	366	62	443
9		Guna	288	184	67	539
10		Gwalior	0	0	0	0
11		Hoshangabad	112	108	16	236
12		Indore	0	0	0	0
13		Jabalpur	122	89	101	312
14		Jhabua	120	136	0	256

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
15	**Madhya Pradesh**	Khandwa	0	0	0	0
16		Khargone	0	3	6	9
17		Mandla	101	293	125	519
18		Mandsaur	0	0	0	0
19		Morena	23	231	39	293
20		Narsinghpur	0	0	0	0
21		Panna	56	114	97	267
22		Raisen	18	149	122	289
23		Rajgarh	46	327	34	407
24		Ratlam	3	30	33	66
25		Rewa	815	319	38	1172
26		Sagar	52	430	61	543
27		Satna	149	260	183	592
28		Seoni	0	0	0	0
29		Shahdol	1	334	449	784
30		Shajapur	0	0	0	0
31		Shivpuri	6	95	8	109
32		Sidhi	0	540	236	776
33		Ujjain	0	0	0	0
34		Vidisha	8	329	6	343
		TOTAL:	**2549**	**4928**	**1994**	**9471**
35	**Chhattisgarh**	Bastar	6	161	40	207
36		Bilaspur	0	9	0	9
37		Durg	65	254	33	352
38		Raigarh	34	52	78	164
39		Raipur	0	117	204	321
40		Sarguja	62	951	253	1266
		TOTAL:	**167**	**1544**	**608**	**2319**

Maharashtra Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
1	**Maharashtra**	Ahmednagar	51	17	17	85
2		Akola	50	43	24	117
3		Amravati	37	5	104	146
4		Aurangabad	61	105	51	217
5		Beed	154	21	117	292
6		Bhandara	39	55	170	264
7		Buldhana	14	35	78	127
8		Chandrapur	1	3	18	22
9		Dhule	8	7	164	179
10		Godciroli	10	9	6	25
11		Goa	5	10	0	15
12		Jalgaon	23	21	4	48
13		Jalna	12	32	35	79
14		Kalyan	60	169	169	398
15		Kolhapur	22	9	7	38
16		Latur	0	0	0	0
17		Nagpur	1	18	39	58
18		Nanded	60	110	115	285
19		Nasik	38	71	169	278
20		Osmanabad	35	2	6	43
21		Parbhani	18	78	70	166
22		Pune	212	183	39	434
23		Raigad	117	35	156	308
24		Ratnagiri	211	102	233	546
25		Sangli	0	0	0	0
26		Satara	31	28	1	60
27		Sindhudurg	104	59	89	252
28		Solapur	7	0	0	7
29		Wardha	0	0	0	0
30		Yeotmal	35	54	261	350
		TOTAL:	**1416**	**1281**	**2142**	**4839**

North-East Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
1	**North**	Meghalaya	167	9	0	176
2	**East-I**	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
3		Tripura	0	0	0	0
		TOTAL:	**167**	**9**	**0**	**176**
1	**North**	Arunachal Pradesh	30	46	39	115
2	**East-II**	Manipur	297	54	155	506
3		Nagaland	15	2	30	47
		TOTAL:	**342**	**102**	**224**	**668**

Orissa Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan. 2007]	Total
1	**Orissa**	Balasore	0	0	0	0
2		Baripada	0	0	3	3
3		Behrampur	0	0	0	0
4		Bhubneswar	0	0	0	0
5		Bolanagir	0	0	7	7
6		Cuttack	0	0	0	0
7		Keonjhar (Dhenkanal)	0	0	4	4
8		Kalahandi	0	0	2	2
9		Koraput	0	0	8	8
10		Phulbani	0	0	0	0
11		Sambalpur	0	0	46	46
12		Sundergarh	0	0	0	0
		TOTAL:	**0**	**0**	**70**	**70**

Rajasthan Telecom Circle

Sl. No.	Name of the Circle	Name of SSA	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07 [upto Jan 2007]	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	**Rajasthan**	Ajmer	0	0	8	8
2		Alwar	26	358	74	458
3		Banswara	33	239	45	317
4		Barmer	7	158	258	423
5		Bharatpur	30	299	98	427
6		Bhilwara	78	185	41	304
7		Bikaner	4	16	17	37
8		Bundi	4	94	52	150
9		Chittorgarh	74	575	311	960
10		Churu	19	180	4	203
11		Jaipur	213	173	149	535
12		Jaisalmer	0	6	4	10
13		Jhalawar	0	474	133	607
14		Jhunjhunu	4	2	1	7
15		Jodhpur	34	20	42	96
16		Kota	0	168	175	343
17		Nagpur	87	295	5	387
18		Pali (Marwar)	34	40	9	83
19		SWM	33	133	187	353
20		Sikar	0	41	74	115
21		Sirohi	42	168	1	211
22		Sriganganagar	346	1004	17	1367
23		Tonk	2	96	77	175
24		Udaipur	3	116	266	385
		TOTAL:	**1073**	**4840**	**2048**	**7961**

Uttar Pradesh (East) Telecom Circle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	**Uttar**	Allahabad	0	0	0	0
2	**Pradesh(E)**	Azamgarh	0	0	0	0
3		Baharaich	0	0	0	0
4		Ballia	0	0	0	0
5		Banda	0	0	0	0
6		Barabanki	0	0	0	0
7		Basti	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		Deoria	0	0	0	0
9		Etawa	0	0	0	0
10		Faizabad	0	0	0	0
11		Farrukhabad	0	0	0	0
12		Fatehpur	0	0	0	0
13		Gazipur	0	0	0	0
14		Gonda	0	0	0	0
15		Gorakhpur	0	0	0	0
16		Hamirpur	0	0	0	0
17		Hardoi	0	0	0	0
18		Jaunpur	0	0	0	0
19		Jhansi	0	0	0	0
20		Kanpur	0	0	0	0
21		Lukhimpur	0	0	0	0
22		Lucknow	0	0	0	0
23		Mainpuri	0	0	0	0
24		Mirzapur	0	0	0	0
25		Orai	0	0	0	0
26		Pratapgarh	0	0	0	0
27		Raibareli	0	0	0	0
28		Shahjahanpur	0	0	0	0
29		Sitapur	3	0	0	3
30		Sultanpur	3	0	0	3
31		Unnao	0	0	0	0
32		Varanasi	0	0	0	0
		TOTAL:	**6**	**0**	**0**	**6**

Uttar Pradesh (West) and Uttaranchal Telecom Circle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	**Uttaranchal**	Almora	10	96	136	242
2		Dehradun	3	24	8	35
3		Hardwar	0	0	0	0
4		Nainital	0	0	29	29
5		Uttar Kashi (New Tehri)	38	9	88	135
6		Kotdwar [Srinagar (GWL)]	60	119	561	740
		TOTAL:	**111**	**248**	**822**	**1181**